

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MOGGERHANGER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Councillors Smith, Anderson, Hall, Bashford, Dean in the Chair, Central Beds Councillor Mrs Turner, 9 members of the public and the Clerk.

1) Apologies for absence: Councillor Barrance and Mease.

2) Declaration of Interest: Mr Bashford re land to rear of The Guinea.

3) Minutes of the meeting held on 19th September 2012: Mr Anderson proposed the minutes seconded by Mr Bashford, they were agreed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

4) Parishioners questions: The meeting closed for 15 minutes.

Sergeant Gary Kidd gave a Police report including the Crime statistics for the last three months and comparisons with the same period in 2011. Generally crime levels were more or less the same.

He gave details of the process and equipment that would be used for the Speedwatch project which had a strong group who had received training who would now be able to carry out the Speedwatch in the village.

Mr Dean thanked Gary for attending.

5) Planning report:

Application for the land to the rear of The Guinea. The council had replied recommending refusal. Mrs Turner had requested the application goes to committee for determination, but she had been advised that the applicant had been invited to either speak to the planners or withdraw the application. Many letters had been sent to Central Beds from the village, these would be taken into consideration.

The Microlight Centre owners had been in touch with the planning department, the officer had visited the site to see the buildings and development that had been carried out without planning permission.

Applications received:

Land to side of 55 Bedford Road.....change of use from agricultural land to open storage/two storage containers.

The Birches Blunham Road....erection of detached agricultural store.

The Old Vicarage.... conversion and alteration from coach house /garage to gym/office.

6) Highway report:

The Speedwatch Team now had 14 volunteers in training.

A meeting had been held with the highway engineers, they discussed the work that needs

to be carried out that had been reported at least three months ago. The work requested included a number of footpaths that required repairing, especially cutting back the growth where the edges had not been sprayed. The drains around the villages need clearing, but these are done on a three yearly scheme. The VAS sign is still a problem and other signs need attention. The tree at the triangle has been cut down, but the land needs repair. A request was made for a dropped kerb to be installed in Park Road , and for residents to trim their overhanging shrubs and trees. The 4 Year Plan was now in place but extra work is required including the footpath in Bedford Road.

7) Central Beds Councillors report:

Mrs Turner advised that there was flood Strategy questionnaire on the way for councils to fill in. Concern was being expressed about the Ash tree dieback, any problems or concerns should be passed to the Forestry Commission, so far there was no record of a problem in Bedfordshire.

The purchase of some extra land for the Village Hall was a possibility, a check was being made of the CB assets and how any disposal should be carried out.

The question of the state of The Old Rose buildings did not meet the criteria for "Empty Houses", it did not reach high enough in the top 10, and there were complications with the other buildings. A Housing needs survey may be needed for Moggerhanger.

A short report was given on the Ivel Forum meeting held in September, a date would be fixed for the next meeting which is due to take place in Blunham in January.

8) Playing field report:

Mr Dean reported that the council had been unable to find a Football Club to use the pitch for the season., but the grass will continue to be cut.

A letter had been received from the PCC asking the Parish Council if they would store the mower and other equipment used in the churchyard in the Pavilion store. Mr Dean advised that the councils mowers and other equipment filled the store. The clerk was asked to write and advise the PCC the council was unable to help them.

9) Report on the meeting held by Alistair Burt MP and the Chief Constable.

Unfortunately no one from the council was able to attend , but a report on the meeting will be sent in the near future. The Clerk reported that the Chief Constable had advised that a number of PCSOs were being made redundant, but Parish Councils would be asked to consider joining up with other Parish Councils nearby to retain a PCSO.

10) Finance:

Payments.

D J Granger	Grass cutting	£719.97	Beaver Shed	Bus shelter	£216.00
1St Response	Fire Equipment	£15.60	Andy Muskett	Lighting M	£152.52

ACE Pest Control	£84.00	E ON	Power	£96.98/93.85	
Patrick Doyle	Internal Audit	£150.00	Clerk	Admin/sal/EPS	£904.89
HMRC	£173.59				

Mrs Hall proposed the payments seconded and agreed.

The payment to Mr Doyle was proposed by Mr Bashford seconded by Mr Anderson and agreed.

Receipts: Central Beds Grant	£536.94	Bank interest	0.24p/0.26p
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The Clerk circulated information to enable the members to set the Budget and the Precept at the January meeting.

11) Correspondence:

The members of the BATPC elected the officers and committee enbloc at the AGM. The new Lord Lieutenant Mrs Nellis became the President as Mr Sam Whitbread had come to the end of his term of office. Many who attended the AGM were not too impressed by the speaker.

The meeting closed. The Next meeting will be held on 16th January 2013.